THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (b) Tamil Nadu is served by 24 no. of National Highways namely 4, 5, 7, 7A, 45, 45A, 45B, 45C, 45 Extn. 46, 47, 47B, 49, 66, 67, 67 Extn., 68, 205, 207, 208, 209, 210, 219 and 220. Development and maintenance of National Highways is a continuous process and works such as widening, extension repair etc., for this purpose are undertaken in phases depending on the condition of the National Highways, traffic needs, *inter-se* priority and availability of funds. Such works have been carried out in all the above mentioned National Highways in the last three years. During the last three years, 205 works costing Rs. 316.47 crore have been sanctioned for development and funds to the extent of Rs. 125.89 crore have been allotted for repair and maintenance.

Inclusion of Chhattisgarh in Golden Quadrilateral Project

†1829. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the decision taken by Government, no region of Chhattisgarh has been included in the Golden Quadrilateral National Highways Scheme;

(b) if so, whether Government would include Chhattisgarh also in this scheme; and

(c) whether the number of national highways in Chhattisgarh would be increased as a special case due to inclusion of Chhattisgarh in the Golden quadrilateral National Highways Scheme and would be provided with special amounts separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The alignment of the Golden Quadrilateral, which envisages four-laning of the existing National Highways connecting Delhi-Mumbai-Chennai-Kolkata-Delhi had been finalized long back and is in advanced stage of construction and, therefore, it will not be feasible to make any changes in its alignment at this stage so as to include Chhattisgarh within its ambit.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) Does not arise, in view of part (b) above. During February, 2004, Government has taken a decision to convert 7457 Km. of State Roads in different States as National Highways including Jagadalpur-Konta Road (172 Km) and Bilaspur-Ambikapur road (223 Km) in Chhattisgarh. The total length of National Highways network in the country at present is about 65,569 Km. and huge investment will have to be made to upgrade these roads to National Highways standards. At present, thee is a need to concentrate on the development of the existing National Highways instead of further expansion of the network. Considering the extent of investment required for upgrading the National Highways already declared and their maintenance, it is neither feasible to declare more roads as National Highways at present, nor to set apart any special amount for Chhattisgarh for the same.

Assistance for roads to Assam

†1830. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assistance have been provided by Central Government to the State of Assam for construction, repair and widening of the roads during the year 2003-04 and 2004-05;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of proposals submitted by the State of Assam during these periods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. This Ministry is primarily responsible for the development and maintenance of National Highways. An amount of Rs. 235.95 crore and Rs. 185.33 crore has been allocated for the development and maintenance of National Highways (including widening, maintenance and repair) to the State of Assam during 2003-04 and 2004-05 so far, respectively.

In addition, this Ministry is also providing assistance for State roads under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Central Road Fund and Economic Importance/Inter-State Connectivity. An amount of Rs. 14.44 crore and Rs. 20.07 crore has been allocated during 2003-04 and 2004-05 so far, respectively under the above schemes.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.